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Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour ... *a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	85%
Lake Erie (including Lake St.	103%

Volume 10, Number 10 **October 8, 2002**

Storm Season Approaching

Below Average Water Supplies Received by All Lakes Except Lake Superior

Water supplies were below average to all lakes, except Lake Superior, during September. Lake Superior received above average water supplies during September, and, as a result its monthly mean water level rose 2 cm from August to September.

Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario received below average water supplies during September. Monthly mean water levels on these lakes fell 8, 11, 11 and 26 cm, respectively, from August to September. While the declines recorded on lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie were 2 to 4 cm more than average; Lake Ontario levels fell almost twice as much as usual for the second month in a row.

The seasonal decline in lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario levels stalled, although only briefly, as the remnants of Hurricane Isidore passed over the lower Great Lakes basin. Heavy rains on September 27th caused daily water levels on these three lakes to increase by 2 to 3 cm by the 28th. The increase was short lived, however, as levels began to decline again on the 29th.

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes remain below average. All lakes began October at levels higher than those of one year ago, however, Lake Ontario was just 2 cm high than it was last year. Lake Superior is near its annual peak and should begin its seasonal decline during October. Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to continue their seasonal declines during October.

The level at Montréal Harbour declined in September, falling further below its long-term average and below chart datum in the later half of the month. Montréal Harbour levels averaged 5.56 m during September; 1 cm above chart datum and 76 cm below the long-term average for the month. Daily levels at the harbour ranged from a high of 5.82 m on the 5th to a low of 5.40 m on the 30th. If the dry conditions continue the harbour's level will remain below chart datum during October.

Storm Season Reminder

Clair)

Lake Superior 119%

Lakes Michigan-Huron 59%

Lake Ontario 87%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior 95%

Lake Erie 92%

Lake Huron 91%

Lake Ontario 96%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Autumn often brings storms packing high winds to the Great Lakes region. When strong winds prevail in one direction over a lake for a number of hours, they produce a surface tilt referred to as a storm surge. At the eastern end of Lake Erie, for example, this wind set-up can cause the water level to temporarily rise over two metres. While the continuing below-average water level conditions throughout the Great Lakes system will help reduce the risk of serious flood and erosion damage to shore property due to short-term increases in water levels, LEVELnews readers are reminded to exercise caution when at or near the water's edge during a storm event.

Joint Public Meeting Draws Large Crowd

Over 100 people attended the public meeting hosted jointly by the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control in Ogdensburg, New York on September 19, 2002. The meeting began with formal presentations by representatives of both Boards. The Board presentations were followed by an open question and answer period, which enabled those in attendance to share their views and concerns with each other and the Boards. The recent decline in water levels in the upper St. Lawrence River was raised as a notable issue of concern by those in attendance.

Last Edition for Seasonal Subscribers

For those of you who are on our mailing list for the Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews for the six months from spring to fall only, this is the last edition you will receive this year. You will automatically start receiving both publications again in May 2003. If you would like to check water level conditions between now and then, please feel free to call us at one of the telephone numbers provided in the For More Information box, or contact the Canadian Hydrographic Service at the telephone number shown on the Bulletin. If you prefer, you can access water level and related information through the OUR GREAT LAKES site.

No Longer Need Water Level Information Year-round?

If you are on the year-round subscription mailing list, but have found that you only read the Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews from spring to fall, please consider switching to a seasonal subscription. Moving to the seasonal mailing list will help us reduce costs and eliminate waste. If you would like to switch, just let us know.

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